

State of Arkansas  
94th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2023

As Engrossed: S3/29/23

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 49

By: Joint Budget Committee

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PERSONAL SERVICES AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2024; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2023-2024 FISCAL YEAR.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. REGULAR SALARIES - OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY. There is hereby established for the Department of Veterans Affairs for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum	Maximum Annual
			No. of Employees	Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2023-2024
(1)	SC015	SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS	<u>1</u>	GRADE SE05
		MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	1	

SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Veterans Affairs, to be payable from the Miscellaneous Agencies Fund Account, for personal services of the Department of Veterans Affairs for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the following:



ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2023-2024</u>
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$221,420
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	<u>59,784</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$281,204</u></u>

SECTION 3. REGULAR SALARIES - OPERATIONS. There is hereby established for the Department of Veterans Affairs for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item	Class	Maximum	Maximum Annual
<u>No.</u>	<u>Code Title</u>	<u>No. of</u>	<u>Salary Rate</u>
		<u>Employees</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u>
			<u>2023-2024</u>
(1)	U008U ADVA DIRECTOR	1	GRADE SE02
(2)	L018N NURSE PRACTITIONER	1	GRADE MP04
(3)	L002C NURSING DIRECTOR	2	GRADE MP04
(4)	L019C REGISTERED NURSE COORDINATOR	1	GRADE MP02
(5)	L027C REGISTERED NURSE SUPERVISOR	1	GRADE MP02
(6)	L032C REGISTERED NURSE - HOSPITAL	19	GRADE MP01
(7)	D079C COMPUTER SUPPORT TECHNICIAN	1	GRADE IT02
(8)	N197N NURSING HOME DIVISION DIRECTOR	1	GRADE GS15
(9)	G039N ADVA ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	1	GRADE GS14
(10)	L026N ADVA STATE VETERANS HOME ADMINISTRATOR	2	GRADE GS14
(11)	A133C ADVA CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	1	GRADE GS13
(12)	G318C ADVA DIVISION DIRECTOR	2	GRADE GS13
(13)	A027C ACCOUNTING OPERATIONS MANAGER	1	GRADE GS11
(14)	V036C AGENCY PROCUREMENT ADMINISTRATOR	1	GRADE GS10
(15)	M009C LICENSED CERTIFIED SOCIAL WORKER	3	GRADE GS09
(16)	L021C NURSING HOME ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR	2	GRADE GS09
(17)	P004C PUBLIC INFORMATION MANAGER	1	GRADE GS09
(18)	X038C QUALITY ASSURANCE MANAGER	1	GRADE GS09
(19)	A082C ACCOUNTANT II	1	GRADE GS08
(20)	S003C FOOD & BEVERAGE DIRECTOR	2	GRADE GS08
(21)	S004C MAINTENANCE MANAGER	1	GRADE GS08
(22)	R014C PERSONNEL MANAGER	1	GRADE GS08

(23)	A041C PROGRAM FISCAL MANAGER	1	GRADE GS08
(24)	X062C QUALITY ASSURANCE COORDINATOR	1	GRADE GS08
(25)	G253C ADVA SERVICE OFFICER	11	GRADE GS07
(26)	G237C ADVA CEMETERY MANAGER	2	GRADE GS07
(27)	R024C ASSISTANT PERSONNEL MANAGER	1	GRADE GS07
(28)	V008C BUYER SUPERVISOR	1	GRADE GS07
(29)	G159C DEPARTMENT BUSINESS COORDINATOR	2	GRADE GS07
(30)	P065C DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST	1	GRADE GS07
(31)	C010C EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR	1	GRADE GS07
(32)	S017C MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR	2	GRADE GS07
(33)	C037C ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST	2	GRADE GS06
(34)	L069C LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE	40	GRADE GS06
(35)	S033C MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR	2	GRADE GS06
(36)	V014C BUYER	1	GRADE GS05
(37)	A091C FISCAL SUPPORT ANALYST	1	GRADE GS05
(38)	R032C HUMAN RESOURCES PROGRAM REPRESENTATIVE	4	GRADE GS05
(39)	M065C RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY SUPERVISOR	2	GRADE GS05
(40)	V018C WAREHOUSE MANAGER	1	GRADE GS05
(41)	C056C ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST III	1	GRADE GS04
(42)	A098C FISCAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST	1	GRADE GS04
(43)	S044C FOOD PREPARATION MANAGER	1	GRADE GS04
(44)	R036C HUMAN RESOURCES SPECIALIST	1	GRADE GS04
(45)	S046C MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN	9	GRADE GS04
(46)	C073C ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST II	4	GRADE GS03
(47)	L082C CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT	146	GRADE GS03
(48)	S056C FOOD PREPARATION SUPERVISOR	3	GRADE GS03
(49)	S050C MAINTENANCE SPECIALIST	2	GRADE GS03
(50)	C087C ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST I	1	GRADE GS02
(51)	S085C FOOD PREPARATION SPECIALIST	7	GRADE GS02
(52)	S060C HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR	1	GRADE GS02
(53)	S084C INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES SUPERVISOR	1	GRADE GS02
(54)	S089C FOOD PREPARATION TECHNICIAN	<u>2</u>	GRADE GS01
	MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	303	

SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION - STATE OPERATIONS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Veterans Affairs, to be payable from the

Miscellaneous Agencies Fund Account, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Veterans Affairs - State Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2023-2024</u>
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$1,138,867
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	418,746
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	221,500
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	20,000
(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(04) AID TO COUNTY VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICES	516,000
(05) PROMOTIONAL ITEMS	<u>10,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$2,325,113</u></u>

SECTION 5. EXTRA HELP - VETERANS' HOMES. There is hereby authorized, for the Department of Veterans Affairs - Veterans' Homes for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the following maximum number of part-time or temporary employees, to be known as "Extra Help", payable from funds appropriated herein for such purposes: thirty (30) temporary or part-time employees, when needed, at rates of pay not to exceed those provided in the Uniform Classification and Compensation Act, or its successor, or this act for the appropriate classification.

SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION - VETERANS' HOMES - CASH. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Veterans Affairs, to be payable from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Veterans Affairs - Veterans' Homes for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
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<u>NO.</u>	<u>2023-2024</u>
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$8,000,000
(02) EXTRA HELP	45,339
(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	2,400,000
(04) OVERTIME	900,000
(05) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	15,652,808
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	16,000
(C) PROF. FEES	312,000
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	140,000
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(06) PROMOTIONAL ITEMS	10,000
(07) SPECIAL MAINTENANCE	<u>72,831</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$27,548,978</u></u>

SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION - NW AR STATE VETERANS' HOME - CASH. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Veterans Affairs, to be payable from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for matching funds for land acquisition, improvements, construction, renovation, and purchase of equipment for a State Veterans' Home in Northwest Arkansas for the Department of Veterans Affairs - NW AR State Veterans' Home for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2023-2024</u>
(01) NW AR STATE VETERANS HOME	<u><u>\$15,000,000</u></u>

SECTION 8. APPROPRIATION - NW AR STATE VETERANS' HOME - FEDERAL. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Veterans Affairs, to be payable from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for land acquisition, improvements, construction, renovation, and purchase of equipment for a State Veterans' Home in Northwest Arkansas for the Department of Veterans Affairs - NW AR State Veterans' Home for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2023-2024</u>
(01) NW AR STATE VETERANS HOME - FEDERAL	<u>\$30,000,000</u>

SECTION 9. APPROPRIATION - VETERANS' CEMETERIES - STATE. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Veterans Affairs, to be payable from the Miscellaneous Agencies Fund Account, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Veterans Affairs - Veterans' Cemeteries - State for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2023-2024</u>
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$737,281
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	311,825
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	180,000
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$1,229,106</u>

SECTION 10. EXTRA HELP - VETERANS' CEMETERIES - CASH. There is hereby authorized, for the Department of Veterans Affairs - Veterans' Cemeteries - Cash for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the following maximum number of part-time or temporary employees, to be known as "Extra Help", payable from funds appropriated herein for such purposes: five (5) temporary or part-time employees, when needed, at rates of pay not to exceed those provided in the Uniform Classification and Compensation Act, or its successor, or this act for the appropriate classification.

SECTION 11. APPROPRIATION - VETERANS' CEMETERIES - CASH. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Veterans Affairs, to be payable from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Veterans Affairs - Veterans' Cemeteries - Cash for the

fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$62,486
(02) EXTRA HELP	24,000
(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	24,650
(04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	856,075
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	15,000
(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	267,750
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(05) PROMOTIONAL ITEMS	<u>6,500</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$1,256,461</u></u>

SECTION 12. APPROPRIATION - MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS PROGRAM. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Veterans Affairs, to be payable from the Military Funeral Honors Fund, for operating expenses of the Department of Veterans Affairs - Military Funeral Honors Program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024
(01) MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS EXPENSES	<u>\$45,900</u>

SECTION 13. APPROPRIATION - NLR CEMETERY EXPANSION 2 - FEDERAL. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Veterans Affairs, to be payable from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for construction and expansion expenses for the North Little Rock Veterans' Cemetery of the Department of Veterans Affairs - NLR Cemetery Expansion - Federal for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024
(01) CONSTRUCTION AND EXPANSION EXPENSES	<u><u>\$2,000,000</u></u>

SECTION 14. REGULAR SALARIES - DISABLED VETERANS' SERVICES OFFICE.

There is hereby established for the Department of Veterans Affairs - Disabled Veterans' Services Office - Disabled Veterans' Services Office for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2023-2024
(1)	C073C	ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST II	<u>1</u>	GRADE GS03
		MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	1	

SECTION 15. APPROPRIATION - OPERATIONS - DISABLED VETERANS' SERVICES OFFICE. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Veterans Affairs, to be payable from the Miscellaneous Agencies Fund Account, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Veterans Affairs - Disabled Veterans' Services Office for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$27,614
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	13,272
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	3,000
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$43,866</u>

SECTION 16. REGULAR SALARIES - ARKANSAS VETERANS' CHILD WELFARE SERVICE. There is hereby established for the Department of Veterans Affairs - Arkansas Veterans' Child Welfare Service for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2023-2024
(1)	U009U	ADVA VETERANS CHILD WELFARE DIR	1	GRADE GS07
(2)	C022C	BUSINESS OPERATIONS SPECIALIST	<u>1</u>	GRADE GS05
		MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	2	

SECTION 17. APPROPRIATION - OPERATIONS - ARKANSAS VETERANS' CHILD WELFARE SERVICE. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Veterans Affairs, to be payable from the Miscellaneous Agencies Fund Account, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Veterans Affairs - Arkansas Veterans' Child Welfare Service for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the following:

ITEM NO.		FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024
(01)	REGULAR SALARIES	\$93,210
(02)	PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	35,271
(03)	MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	4,182
	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
	(C) PROF. FEES	0
	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
	(E) DATA PROC.	0
(04)	GRANTS/AID-ASSISTANCE TO MINOR CHILDREN	<u>42,020</u>
	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$174,683</u></u>

SECTION 18. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. USE OF ADVA CONTINGENCY POSITION POOL AND CONTINGENCY APPROPRIATION. In the event additional appropriation becomes necessary that is not authorized or contemplated in State Operations, Veterans' Homes and Veterans' Cemeteries appropriations of this Act and growth in the State Veterans' Home at

Fayetteville’s or North Little Rock’s resident census and/or growth in the number of interments at the State Veterans’ Cemetery at North Little Rock makes it necessary for the Arkansas Department of Veterans’ Affairs to request additional positions, regular salaries and personal services matching appropriation in order to carry out the objectives of the Agency, the ADVA Contingency Position Pool and Contingency Appropriation authorized herein may be used for regular salaries and personal services matching line items.

The Arkansas Department of Veterans’ Affairs Contingency Appropriation authorized herein shall be funded primarily with cash funds of the State Veterans’ Home at Fayetteville or North Little Rock and of the State Veterans’ Cemetery at North Little Rock or Birdeye. Each entity’s cash funds shall be utilized in support of its own business operations and shall not be co-mingled. In addition, general revenue funding in support of the ADVA Contingency Position Pool shall be limited to \$250,000 per year.

Use of the ADVA Contingency Position Pool and Contingency Appropriation authorized in this Act shall be conditioned upon approval by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State and upon certification by the Secretary of the Arkansas Department of Veterans’ Affairs that funds are available to support the contingency positions requested and upon prior review by the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee.

The General Assembly has determined that the Arkansas State Veterans’ Home at Fayetteville and the Arkansas State Veterans’ Cemetery at North Little Rock may operate more efficiently if some flexibility is provided to the Arkansas Department of Veterans’ Affairs under this Section.

ITEM NO.	CLASS CODE	TITLE	MAXIMUM NO. OF EMPLOYEES	MAXIMUM ANNUAL SALARY RATE	
				<del>2022-2023</del>	2023-2024
(1)	C087C	ADMIN SPECIALIST I	1		GRADE GS02
(2)	S046C	MAINT TECHNICIAN	1		GRADE GS04
(3)	S050C	MAINT SPECIALIST	1		GRADE GS03
(4)	S065C	MAINT ASSISTANT	3		GRADE GS01
(5)	L009C	NURSE MANAGER	1		GRADE MP03
(6)	L019C	REG NURSE COORD	1		GRADE MP02
(7)	D071C	COMP SUPPORT ANALYST	1		GRADE IT03
(8)	L069C	LICENSED PRACT NURSE	1		GRADE GS06

(9) M065C RECR ACTIVITY LEADER SVR	1	GRADE GS05
(10) L082C CERTIFIED NURSING ASSIST	9	GRADE GS03
(11) S087C INSTITUTIONAL SERV ASST	3	GRADE GS01

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2022~~ 2023 through June 30, ~~2023~~ 2024.

SECTION 19. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS. Disbursement of funds authorized by this act shall be limited to the appropriation for such agency and funds made available by law for the support of such appropriations; and the restrictions of the State Procurement Law, the General Accounting and Budgetary Procedures Law, the Revenue Stabilization Law, the Regular Salary Procedures and Restrictions Act, or their successors, and other fiscal control laws of this State, where applicable, and regulations promulgated by the Department of Finance and Administration, as authorized by law, shall be strictly complied with in disbursement of said funds.

SECTION 20. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the General Assembly that any funds disbursed under the authority of the appropriations contained in this act shall be in compliance with the stated reasons for which this act was adopted, as evidenced by the Agency Requests, Executive Recommendations and Legislative Recommendations contained in the budget manuals prepared by the Department of Finance and Administration, letters, or summarized oral testimony in the official minutes of the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee which relate to its passage and adoption.

SECTION 21. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly, that the Constitution of the State of Arkansas prohibits the appropriation of funds for more than a one (1) year period; that the effectiveness of this Act on July 1, 2023 is essential to the operation of the agency for which the appropriations in this Act are provided, and that in the event of an extension of the legislative session, the delay in the effective date of this Act beyond July 1, 2023 could work irreparable harm upon the proper administration and provision of essential governmental programs. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after July 1, 2023.

*/s/Joint Budget Committee*

**APPROVED: 4/11/23**